

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Madonna Acres Historic District

Raleigh, Wake County, WA4443, Listed 9/1/2010

Nomination by M. Ruth Little

Photographs by M. Ruth Little, September 2009



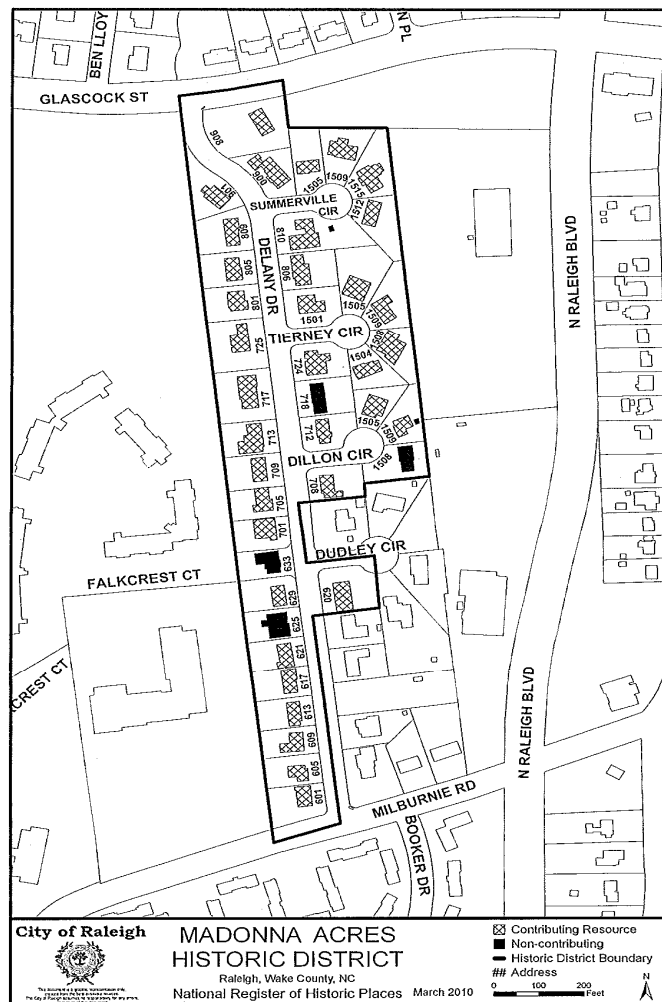
806 Delany Drive



150 Summerville Circle



Delany Drive, looking northwest



Historic District Map

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Madonna Acres Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Delany Drive, Dillon, Summerville and Tierney Circles not for publication N/A

city or town Raleigh vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27610

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination
_____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets
_____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide
X locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____ entered in the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the

_____ National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the

_____ National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Madonna Acres Historic District

Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>36</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	sites
<u>-0-</u>	<u>-1-</u>	structures
<u>-0-</u>	<u>-2-</u>	objects
<u>36</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Post-World War II and Modern Architecture in Raleigh, N. C., 1945-1965

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>street furniture/object</u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Ranch
Other: Contemporary
Other: Split Level

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof asphalt
walls brick
wood
other stone
concrete block

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Madonna Acres Historic District

Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or a grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☒ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

ethnic heritage: black

community development & planning

Period of Significance

1960-1965

Significant Dates

1960

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Winters, John (builder)

Miller, Jerry (architect)

Richards, E. N. (Ed) (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Madonna Acres Historic District

Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17S 715420 3963560
2 17S 715520 3963600

Zone Easting Northing
3 17S 715620 3963250
4 17S 715560 3964000
X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. Ruth Little and Anna Quinn for the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission

organization Longleaf Historic Resources date March 2010

street & number 2312 Bedford Avenue telephone 919.412.7804

city or town Raleigh state N.C. zip code 27607

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Madonna Acres Historic District
Wake County, North Carolina**

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Section 7: Description

Madonna Acres Historic District, a thirteen-acre subdivision located in east Raleigh on the east border of the St. Augustine's College campus, was platted in 1960. The compact plan contains a central north-south street named Delany Drive that extends from Milburnie Road on the south to Glascock Street on the north. Three short cul-de-sacs extend to the east: Dillon Circle, Tierney Circle, and Summerville Circle. The topography is generally level, although lots on the west side of Delany Drive slop down to a creek at the rear. Some lots on Tierney and Summerville circles also slope to the rear. Lots average one-quarter acre in size. Those along Delany Drive are rectangular, seventy to ninety feet wide and generally 125 feet deep, while the cul-de-sac lots are trapezoidal with a larger square footage although generally not as deep. Streets are concrete-curbed, guttered, and asphalt-paved, with no sidewalks. Each house has its own driveway. The subdivision plat, dated October 25, 1960, contains a street outlet on the west side of Delany Street leading into St. Augustine's College campus. This was never constructed; instead it was converted to a lot, 633 Delany Drive, and a house constructed on it about 1996. All but two of the forty houses were built from late 1960 to 1965; 625 and 633 Delany Drive were constructed later.

The approximately six-acre section on the east side of Delany Drive, south of Dillon Circle, including Dudley Dircle, was not developed until the 1970s and is not included in the historic district because it does not fall within the period of historical significance. A variety of one- and two-story houses were constructed here from the 1970s to the present. The exception is 620 Delany Drive, built in 1965, which is included. At each entrance to the neighborhood, at Milburnie Road and Glascock Street, is a low brick structure bearing a "Madonna Acres" sign erected around 1980. Only the north one is within the district boundary, because the house adjacent to the south gate is not included in the boundary.

The houses maintain a thirty-foot setback from the street. The large grassy front lawns are edged neatly with shrubs and flowers. Front yards tend to be open and mature trees are generally located behind the houses. The district contains a total of forty houses: all are contributing resources except for four. 625 and 633 Delany Drive were built or rebuilt after 1965. 718 Delany Drive and 1508 Dillon Circle have lost their architectural integrity due to major character-altering changes. Most of the houses have small prefabricated metal and frame one-story storage sheds at the rears that were not large enough to warrant evaluation. One recently-constructed shed, at the rear of 1509 Dillon Circle, is a noncontributing resource. A post-1965 brick outdoor grill at the rear of 810 Delany Drive is counted as a noncontributing structure. A total of eighty-seven percent of the houses contribute to the district's architectural character.

Pre-1965 houses in the district consist of twenty-four Ranches, eleven Split Levels, one Split Foyer, and two two-story houses. All contributing houses are of brick, generally with accent walls of stone veneer or wood. Most of the Ranches are the minimal, archetypal type explained in Property Type 1: Single-Family Houses, in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF): "Post World-War II and Modern Architecture in Raleigh, North Carolina, 1945-1965," (page F22). The common Ranch in Madonna Acres is four-bays wide, side-gabled, with brick walls, a section of wood siding, a living room picture window, and a one-car carport. Four of the Ranches, 605 Delany Drive, 701 Delany Drive, 1505 Dillon Circle, and 1508 Tierney Circle, are

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asymmetrical front-gabled contemporary Ranches rather than of side-gabled form.

Eleven of Madonna Acres's houses are Split Levels. The Lightner House, 717 Delany Drive, the Lewis House, 1505 Tierney Circle, and the Brown House, 725 Delany Drive, have an unusual front-to-back floor plan in which the living room, dining room, and kitchen occupy the front one-story level, and the den and bedrooms occupy two stories arranged to the rear. Several of these houses also have dramatic contemporary spaces. The rest of the Split Levels feature the more common side-to-side Split Level plan, with a one-story main level containing living room, dining room, and kitchen at one side and a split level side wing with bedrooms and den on the other side.

The pair of two-story houses are the Webb House, 1509 Tierney Circle, and the Wilson House, 901 Delany Drive. The contemporary Webb House functions like a raised Ranch; the Wilson House is the only Colonial Revival -style dwelling in the district.

Madonna Acres Historic District houses generally retain their original massing and simple, modern features. They maintain a high level of integrity of materials, workmanship, design, and setting. In fact, they are unusually intact because of the remarkable continuity of ownership: at least twelve houses are still occupied by an original owner. A number of the others are now occupied by a descendant of an original owner. Houses retain their original massing and their simple modern features, including roof shape, wall materials, windows, floor plan, and carport. The brick and stone surfaces remain in their original condition. Most of the exterior wooden surfaces remain in place and have not been covered with aluminum or vinyl siding. The most common alteration is the addition of stone veneer to one or more exterior surfaces. The Downing House, 713 Delany Drive, received a stone veneer on its right two bays in the 1980s. Because stone wall accents are a common feature in the subdivision architecture, these newer stone accents alter the house appearance but still allow the house to remain a contributing resource in the district.

Carports are an important feature of the houses. Most houses retain their integral carports with metal or 4 inch by 4 inch wood post supports and a rear storage closet. Some of them retain original horizontal board privacy walls or decorative concrete block screens. 1501 Tierney Circle and 621 Delany Drive have carports that have been enclosed as dens. 1501 Tierney Circle's den has stone veneer, an early alteration that resembles the original stone accents used on other houses and thus still contributes to the district's character. 621 Delany Drive's den was built in an unobtrusive way so that the house is still a contributing resource. The only original garages are at the Lightner House, 717 Delany Drive, and the Haynes House, 620 Delany Drive. The additions of two-car garages to 718 Delany Drive and 1508 Dillon Circle altered the architectural character to the extent that these houses are noncontributing resources.

The large picture windows with lower awning sash that opened for ventilation are also a significant thematic feature. Very few of these windows have been replaced—for example that at 1504 Tierney Circle was replaced in kind following a 1996 fire. The other windows, generally small two-over-two or one-over-one wood sash windows, survive intact on nearly every house.

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Planters are a small but important feature of most houses. Many of the houses have built-in brick or stone planters along one side of the entrance stoop or extending along the outer edge of the concrete slab of the carport. Many of these boxes are landscaped with flowers. A few other houses have original wooden flower boxes with a distinctive angled shape hanging below a row of windows.

Although interior integrity is not an issue in a historic district, the interiors of a number of the houses were documented. The continuity of ownership that has preserved the exteriors from alterations has also maintained the interiors. Floor plans, floor, wall and ceiling materials, living room fireplaces, doors and trim are intact and unaltered.

Inventory List:

Note: List is arranged alphabetically, by street name, east side first, then west side. The cul-de-sacs are listed in ascending addresses. Dates of construction are derived from the city of Raleigh tax data, from interviews with homeowners, and from the City Directories. In some cases the tax data or the interviews revealed an earlier date of construction than the date when the house first appeared in the city directories. Names of houses are based on the earliest known owner-occupant. Houses are not named for tenants. The width of the façade is counted by the number of bays, with most houses being four bays wide. Carports are not counted as bays; their presence is noted separately.

Contributing/Noncontributing Status: All buildings are categorized as C (contributing) or NC (noncontributing) based on the following criteria: Contributing buildings were constructed prior to 1966. They also retain sufficient integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to contribute to the historic character of the district. Any building built after the end of the period of significance, in 1965, is noncontributing due to its age (NC-age). Buildings built before 1966 that have lost their architectural integrity because of substantial additions and/or alterations incompatible with their historic character are categorized as noncontributing because of these changes (NC-alt.). Examples of this are complete window, door, and porch replacements; artificial siding that obscures the original door, window, wall and eave detailing, and extensive post-1965 additions, such as a large garage. Artificial siding such as aluminum, vinyl or asbestos shingles does not automatically render a building noncontributing if it retains its historic form and other original features such as window sashes and a carport.

**Entrance Gate
North End of Delany Drive
NC object Ca. 1980**

A low red brick entrance gate containing a stone plaque with the name "Madonna Acres" marking the north entrance to the historic district, at the southeast corner of Delany Drive and Glascock Street.

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DELANY DRIVE EAST SIDE

Lemuel and Ludelle Delany House

620 Delany Drive

C 1965

Brick hip-roofed Ranch, five bays wide, including an original one-bay garage at the right side. The center three bays are recessed, forming a shallow porch with pipe columns and a metal railing. The entrance with original door with three lights, and a bay window are sheltered by the porch. Other windows are 2-over-2 sash in singles and pairs. Beneath the bay window is an original brick planter. There is an interior chimney. The porch wall and the garage bay were originally weatherboarded; vinyl siding now covers the wood. The bay window may have replaced an original picture window.

Lemuel Delany, a grandson of Bishop Henry Delany, and his wife Ludelle had the house built by builder Jacob Haynes in 1965. Lemuel was a mortician in New York City; Ludelle was a registered nurse at Wake Medical Center. Current owners are Esther and Brandi Delany, descendants of the Delany family who owned the land prior to development as Madonna Acres. [Wake County DB1964, 29; information from local historian Edna Rich Ballentine]

George and Laura Stokes House

708 Delany Drive

C 1961

Brick and stone Ranch, four bays wide, with brick stoop and replacement front door and railings. To the left of the entry are two pairs of horizontal 1-over-1 sash windows. A two-section picture window on the right is surrounded by random-coursed, ashlar stone veneer of cream, orange and light brown coloration, with narrow mortar joints, and sits on a brick wainscot. A small brick chimney is at the center of the house. The one bay carport on the right is supported by painted 4x4 posts and has a plywood and batten ceiling. A brick planter runs the length of the row of posts. A small gabled addition with wide wood siding extends from the back of the carport, and has no interior access to the house.

The original owners were listed as George S. Stokes, Jr., a teacher at the Governor Morehead School, and his wife Laura V. Stokes . [1965 CD].

Allen and Marie Jeffers House

712 Delany Drive

C 1961

Four bay brick Ranch with exterior brick end chimney on right. Flush entry has a small brick stoop with metal railings and a paneled door. There are two paired horizontal 1-over-1 sash windows on the left and a three-section picture window on the right. All front windows are obscured by large cloth awnings. The single bay carport has metal supports with plywood and batten ceiling. A small sided storage lean-to abuts the rear of the house by the carport.

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The original owners were Allen Jeffers and his wife Marie [1963 CD].

David and Leolia Spaugh House

718 Delany Drive

NC-alt. 1961

Side-gabled brick Ranch, four bays wide, with non-historic two car garage on south end. Slightly recessed entry door, slate-faced stoop and stairs. Left side of house obscured by dense vegetation, three-section picture window with lower awning panes on right, surrounded by vinyl siding. The house is noncontributing because of the substantial garage addition.

The original owners were David D. Spaugh, a teacher, and his wife Leolia G. Spaugh [1963 CD].

Madonna Acres Model House

724 Delany Drive

C 1961

Brick L-shaped contemporary Ranch with complex intersecting gabled rooflines, wide overhanging eaves and narrow vertical flush siding accent walls on a corner lot. The two street facing sides have beige Roman brick-shaped stone veneer; the other two sides the more common red brick. Carport on the left side faces the rear and has a latticework stone wall. An interior brick chimney is behind the front entry. Recessed, formal symmetrical entry door with sidelights. A brick lined concrete walk leads from the street to the entry. To the right is the gable front mass of the house with asymmetrical window groupings. On the left is a tall three-section picture window surrounded by vertical flush siding. On the right is a narrow, horizontal three-part ribbon window at the roofline. A patio/deck off the right side of the house is screened by a half-height latticework brick wall extension. A small sunroom addition is off the back beside the carport.

According to Angela Wall, this house was a model house built for John Winters. [interview with Angela Wall] It expresses a nationally popular contemporary aesthetic. Tax records indicate the was house built in 1961, but the first owners of record were John D. and Louise W. Lewis, Jr., who also owned 1505 Tierney Circle. They bought the property in April of 1962, then sold it to its current owner, James Edward Stallings, in August 1962 [DB 1502 P 342; DB 1716 P 272]. The city directory does not list an occupant, C.L. Stallings, until 1966. James Stallings, son of C. L., is the present owner. [1966 CD, information from Edna Rich Ballentine]

Richard and Elizabeth Barfield House

806 Delany Drive

C 1960

Four-bay side gabled brick Ranch with wide eaves and eave jetties on gable ends. Interior front chimney. Original 1-over-1 horizontal sash windows. Recessed two bay porch with brick planter, original decorative metal posts and paneled door. A wide, decorative concrete block screen runs between the porch and the carport, flush against the brick wall, concealing a window behind this screen. The carport has a small stand-alone storage area with narrow vertical flush siding, wooden 4x4 posts and a plywood and batten ceiling. To the right of the entry, brick wainscot is topped by vertical flush wood siding.

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The original owners were Richard L. Barfield, a principal, and his wife Elizabeth E. Barfield [1963 CD].

**Clarence and Ola Coleman House
810 Delany Drive
C 1961**

The Coleman House was built for Clarence and Ola Coleman in 1961. Dr. Coleman was a druggist and part owner of Hamlin Drug Store. Hamlin's, on the ground floor of the Lightner Arcade, was a local downtown landmark. Mrs. Coleman worked in the labs at St. Augustine's Hospital and Wake Memorial. She later worked in Animal Health for the Department of Agriculture. Before this house was built, they rented a house on Pettigrew St. near Battery Heights [Ola Coleman interview, 1963 CD].

The side-gable brick rambler Ranch faces north on a north-sloping lot. A kitchen ell extends off the left front side. A large deck off the ell is also the carport roof. The main entry door with sidelights is flush with the wall, accessed by curved brick stairs with metal rails. The door itself was made by Clarence Coleman. To the left is a large picture window with 2 lower awning sash. A wider picture window with three lower sash is on the right side at the primary gable end. This end has a stone veneer with plywood and battens above in the gable, and a large interior brick end chimney. The kitchen ell has an interior brick chimney near the junction of the roofs. There is a picture window with three lower panes at the right corner. An eave jetty projects over the deck/carport. The walk out basement below has a three-paneled door with glass block insets in the wall. An original rear screen porch has been enclosed as a sunroom.

The Colemans worked with John Winters to design their house "to fit the land," according to Mrs. Coleman. The interiors were inspired by various magazines [Ola Coleman interview]. The sunken living room has a large asymmetrical stone fireplace with interior brick wall with continuous glazed transom at the top.

Barbeque grill. NC object - ca. 1970. Large beige brick charcoal grill in the back yard.

**Frank and Queen Weaver House
900 Delany Drive
C 1963**

Six-bay side-gabled brick and stone rambler Ranch with carport at north end. Front exterior chimney at entry with single stepped shoulder and randomly arranged stone insets. Recessed entry porch with metal porch and carport supports. Gable ends and carport storage have been covered in vinyl siding. Three two-section picture windows with fixed lower panes extend along the stepped back front wall to the left between the chimney and the carport. Stone veneer at left end of facade with built in stone planter in front. The carport, with its signature plywood and batten ceiling and rear storage closet, may be an early addition. It is delineated along the side and rear by decorative concrete block screens. A stone planter stretches the length of this section.

The original owners were Frank B. and his wife Queen L. Weaver. Mr. Weaver was a supervisor with the State Department of Public Instruction [1963 CD].

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**Igal and Thannie Spraggings House
908 Delany Drive
C 1965**

Brick side-gabled and hipped Split Level with wide wood siding on upper level only. The three bay 2 -story section has horizontal 2-over-2 sash windows above and a triplet of horizontal 2-over-2 sash windows below. Inset front entry at ground level with built-in brick planter and wooden 4x4 posts supporting a pent roof that extends the length of the house. The one story wing on the right has a single bay window and interior brick chimney. Random stone insets in the chimney and brick walls of this section. An inset carport at the left rear has a brick half wall with painted 4x4 posts supporting the second floor above. The driveway of this corner lot leads to Glascock St. A bay window replaces an original window on the right of the façade.

The original owners were Igal E. Spraggings, Registrar of Saint Augustine's College, and his wife Thannie C. Spraggings [1966 CD].

DELANY DRIVE WEST SIDE

**James and Halcy Evans House
601 Delany Drive
C 1962**

Side-gabled brick Ranch, four bays wide, with a recessed entrance, an original door, and a tile stoop with a metal railing. To the right of the entrance is a 3-section picture window with lower awning sash, with board-and-batten wood siding around the window. Left of the entrance are four-pane awning windows for the bedrooms. At right is an exterior end chimney. A low brick wall extends out from the façade to the left.

The original owners were James P. and Halcy H. Evans. Mr. Evans was a janitor with the Farmers Cooperative Exchange [1963 CD].

**Evans Rental House
605 Delany Drive
C 1961**

Contemporary front-gable Ranch, three bays wide, of popular design that may have been built from magazine or mail-order plans. The asymmetrical front-gable roof has projecting roof joists that support wide eaves. The central entrance has an original door with a single light. The left bay has a brick wainscot, a paired 1-over-1 original sash window, and flush horizontal wood siding around the window. The right bay has a two-section picture window with operable awning sash illuminating the living room. The roof of the integral carport, with square wood posts, is an extension of the main gable roof. It has an original storage closet at the rear.

According to deed records, the original owners were James P. and Halcy H. Evans, who also owned the house next door at 601 Delany Drive [DB1506 p126]. The City Directory lists the occupants as Eugene Alston, a kitchen worker at St. Augustine College, and his wife Rachel D. Alston [1963 CD].

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**Hubert and Katie Fitts House
609 Delany Drive
C 1962**

Side-gable four-bay brick Ranch, with exterior end chimney. At the right, a low latticework brick wall extends out flush with the facade. Central entrance with a plain door and a tile stoop with metal railing. Two-section picture window with lower awning sash in living room bay to the left of the entrance. Two bedroom bays to right of the entrance have paired awning windows, a brick wainscot, and narrow weatherboard siding around the windows. Above the left two bays is a low cross-gable. A wing at the left rear has an exterior end chimney. The roof pitch is so low that it is covered with tar and gravel instead of shingles.

The original owners were Hubert Fitts, a mail carrier, and his wife Katie W. Fitts [1963 CD].

**Allen and Lucy Willis House
613 Delany Drive
C 1962**

Brick side-gabled Split Level, with side-gabled 1-story wing at left and front-gable 2-story wing at right. The carport at the west end has wood posts set on a low brick wall and a built-in storage closet at rear. The central entrance has an original door with 3 small lights and a tall glass transom. Its location is unusual because it opens into the lower, ground level rather than the living room level. Beside it is a brick planter. At the left is a two-section picture window with operable lower awning sash in the living room. At right, sliding wood windows illuminate both levels. The upper story has a jetty overhang. Vinyl siding covers the upper walls.

The original owners were Allen Willis, manager of the Rainbow Cab Company, and his wife Lucy S. Willis. [1963 CD]

**Albert and Gladys Smith House
617 Delany Drive
C 1963**

Brick Split Level of typical design, with a 1-story wing at the left and a 2-story wing at the right. The lower level at the right is partially below ground in the front. At the left side is a carport with 4x4 posts and a built-in rear storage area. The center entrance has a brick stoop. Front chimney located beside the entrance, with rough granite blocks accenting the brick. The two-section picture window illuminating the living room has lower awning sash. The remaining windows are original 2-over-2 wooden sash. A pent roof set between the lower and upper levels extends across the recessed entrance. The upper level has narrow vertical sided walls.

The property was conveyed to Albert and Gladys P. Smith in 1963 [db1552 p123]. Mrs. Gladys Smith, a beautician, was the listed occupant in 1968 [1968 CD], and still owns the house.

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**Rosalie Peay House
621 Delany Drive
C 1960**

Side-gable brick five-bay Ranch, with central entrance with a replacement front door and a brick stoop with decorative metal railing. At the left is the bedroom area with original four-pane awning windows, a brick wainscot, and vinyl or aluminum siding around the windows. To the right of the entrance is the living room with a two-section picture window with lower awning sash. The house has a walk-out basement to the rear. The left bay, originally a carport, is now enclosed, covered with metal siding, and has three 1-over-1 sash windows.

The original owner was Mrs. Rosalie H. Peay, a public school teacher and widow of Oscar A. Peay [1963 CD].

**Sharpe House
625 Delany Drive
NC-alt. early 1960s, ca. 1980**

The original 1960s Ranch with 2-car carport was completely remodelled and over-built about 1980 in a stuccoed Spanish Mission style by the Sharpe family. The Sharpes purchased the house in the 1960s from John Winters, who had repossessed it after the original owners, the Tysons, had lost it. The roof has been raised to 2 stories in the rear. The left bay projects to the front, with a front cross-gable roof and stuccoed walls with large quoins at the corners. The central entrance has double doors. The right bay is covered with stone veneer. At the right rear is a large exterior end stone chimney. An asymmetrical side-gable roof covers the house.

The original owners were Dethoil J. Tyson, a freight handler for Seaboard Airline Railway, and his wife Lenoir J. Tyson. Mrs. Mary Sharpe is the present owner. [1963 CD; information from Edna Rich Ballentine]

**Bently and Trannie Sanders House
629 Delany Drive
C 1963**

Simple four-bay side-gable brick and frame Ranch, with a central paneled front door with a brick stoop and metal railing. To the left of the entrance, the living room has a three-part picture window with a center fixed pane and flanking 2-over-2 horizontal wood sash. The remaining windows are 2-over-2 horizontal wood sash. The façade has brick veneer; the other sides are covered with wide weatherboard. At the rear, a walkout basement opens to the back yard.

The original owners were Bently W. Sanders, a clerk at the Post Office, and his wife Trannie W. Sanders [1963 CD]. Mrs. Sanders still owns the house.

**Marvin Poole House
633 Delany Drive
NC-age ca. 1990**

Current owner Marvin Poole has owned this house since the 1990s. It was built in 1996-1997. The four-bay

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side-gabled Ranch house is covered with stone veneer. In the center is a shallow front-gabled wing with weatherboard siding. Beside it, the recessed entrance has a brick stoop.

**Ocie and Dorothy Taylor House
701 Delany Drive
C 1962**

The Taylor House, built for Ocie L. and Dorothy P. Taylor in 1962 from a house plan in a magazine, is a contemporary front-gable brick three-bay Ranch of nationally-popular design. The asymmetrical front-gable house features a very wide brick chimney beside the recessed entrance, a two-section picture window with lower awning sash, and an extension of the façade as a low wall at the left. At right are the kitchen and an integral carport. The entrance has an original plain door, with a tall sidelight and glazed transom above the door. The kitchen has an original 1-over-1 paired window set above a brick wainscot, with narrow vertical tongue-and-grove wood siding around the window. The roof purlins project beyond the façade to create a wide overhanging eave. At the rear of the carport is a storage area. Behind this is a small den addition added about 1970. The living room is set two steps up from the main level. The room opens to a rear patio through a sliding glass door.

Dorothy Taylor, a retired teacher, is widowed and still lives here. She found a plan in a magazine that was followed by the builder, although it had to be smaller than the plan because of the lot size. Her husband Ocie Taylor was also a teacher [1963 CD].

**Ura Jones House
705 Delany Drive
C 1964**

Four-bay brick Split Level with a side-gable roof. The right one-story wing contains the entrance with original door with a single light and a brick stoop. To the right, the living room picture window has two sections with lower awning sash. The left two-story wing has a brick lower level and a wide weatherboarded upper level, with original 2-over-2 horizontal wood sash windows. The upper level has a jetty overhang. At the right side is an integral carport with tall wood posts and an original horizontal board wood privacy screen at the side and rear.

The original owner was Ms. Ura H. Jones, a teacher at Shaw University [1966 CD].

**Perry-Latta House
709 Delany Drive
C ca. 1963**

Sisters Pauline Latta and Addie H. Perry, and Addie's husband Willard [db1579 p654] had this four-bay-wide, side-gable brick Split Level constructed about 1963. Pauline still lives here. The one-story wing at left contains a central entrance with a stoop with a decorative metal railing. At left, the living room has a three-section picture window with lower awning sash. Beside the living room is an integral carport with wood posts on a low brick wall. At the back of the carport, the sisters enclosed a small room with large picture windows that

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they called a "flower room," where Addie wintered her flowers. The two-story section at right has a hipped roof, a jetty overhang, and wide weatherboard siding on the upper level. The windows are 2-over-2 horizontal wood sash. Beneath the bedroom windows is an original flower box with an angled front board.

Pauline and Addie met several times with John Winters and "picked out the design." Pauline tells the story that the bank would not approve the construction loan without a half-bath in the lower den area, so the builder added one. The house had an intercom system. The 1964 City Directory listed Willard Perry as an employee of the State Highway Department. [interview with Pauline Latta, Sept. 2, 2009]

Clinton and Lillian Downing House

713 Delany Drive

C 1962

Clinton R. Downing and his wife Lillian A. Downing purchased this lot from John Winters and had this house built in the early 1960s. An education professor at East Carolina University, he was listed in the city directory simply as "teacher" [1963 CD]. They still live here. The five-bay brick Ranch has a hipped roof with an integral carport with wood posts at the left. The living room adjacent to the carport has a three-section picture window with lower awning sash. An exterior end chimney is located on the left end, within the carport. The central entrance has a brick stoop. The bedrooms in the right bays have paired 1-over-1 original windows. Stone veneer was applied in the 1980s to the right bays. John Winter's son added a small rear addition at the back of the carport.

Professor Downing commuted to Greenville to teach during the week, and has maintained his residence in Raleigh.

Clarence and Marguerite Lightner House

717 Delany Drive

C 1961

Clarence Lightner, operator of the Lightner Funeral Home and the first African American mayor of Raleigh, built this house along with his wife, Marguerite. According to their daughter, Debra Lightner, who is purchasing the house from her mother's estate, her mother had definite ideas about the house design that she communicated to the builder. Architect Jerry Miller recalls drawing the plans for the four-bay wide, side-gabled brick house with an integral breezeway and garage. The house has an unusual front-to-rear Split Level plan, with the kitchen, dining, and living room across the front of the house, a lower-level den across the rear, and bedrooms above the den accessed by a half flight of stairs in the living room. The living room end wall contains a sliding glass door accessing a tiled breezeway. A vertical louvered wood screen and brick planter creates privacy for the breezeway. To the left is a one-car garage. The living room contains a three-section picture window with lower awning sash. The entrance has an original front door with three lights and a stoop. To the right is a shallow projecting wing containing the dining room and kitchen, with a front-gable roof and a brick wainscot. The dining room window is a two-section picture window, and the kitchen window is a 2-part stationary sash window. The Roman brick walls have granite block accents. A balcony with decorative metal railing extends along the bedroom wall at the rear. The lower level contains a tiled patio with built-in barbecue

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grill behind the garage.

On the interior, the living room has a beamed cathedral ceiling and a dramatic full-height brick and stone fireplace.

Clarence (1921-2002), followed his father Calvin Lightner in operating the Lightner Funeral Home. He was president from 1959-2000. From 1973-1975 he served as Raleigh's first African American mayor. Marguerite Lightner died in 2008.

Charles and Lillian Brown House

725 Delany Drive

C 1961

Charles V. and Lillian C. Brown had this three-bay brick Split Level with an asymmetrical side-gable roof constructed in the early 1960s. Like the Lightner House next door, the house has an unusual front-to-rear Split Level design, with the kitchen, dining and living room across the front of the house and the lower den and upper bedrooms across the rear. The center entrance has an original door with two lights, a brick stoop, and a decorative metal railing. To the left, the living room has a three-section picture window with lower awning sash, and an interior chimney. To the right, the kitchen has an original four-pane awning window. Beside the kitchen to the right is an original two-car carport supported by wood posts, with a decorative wood trellis and a brick planter on the house side of the carport. At the rear is an original storage closet with vertical wood siding. The rear bedroom level has wide weatherboard siding.

The Browns are deceased. Their daughter Ann Brown now owns the house and resides here. The 1963 City Directory lists Mr. Brown as working at the S&W Cafeteria. [1963 CD]

Hubert and Mary Poole House

801 Delany Drive

C 1961

Hubert A. and Mary H. Poole had builder E. N. Richards, whose company was named Wachovia Building Company, construct this small Colonial Revival-influenced Ranch for them in 1961. They still live here. The four-bay house has a brick façade; the other walls are covered with asbestos shingles that are probably original. It rests on an almost full basement that is a walkout basement at the rear, with a brick patio. Original 2-over-2 horizontal wood sash windows illuminate the house. Across the façade, they are set in a group of three in the living room, and a group of two in each bedroom. Beneath the façade windows are paneled wood aprons that convey a Colonial character. About 1990 the Pooles added a two-bay front-gabled entrance porch with turned posts which is inappropriate for this simple Ranch house and detracts somewhat from the original architectural character. According to the Pooles, they chose this house plan from several designs offered by Ed Richards, owner of Wachovia Building Co. Mr. Poole was a teacher at Ligon High School [1963 CD].

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**Francis and Wanda Poole House
805 Delany Drive
C 1961**

The four-bay side-gable brick Ranch, very intact, features a recessed entrance with louvered door, a single sidelight, and a brick stoop with a simple decorative metal railing. To the left of the entrance the living room contains a three-section picture window with lower awning sash. The chimney is interior. The right section has original paired awning windows. Dark red brick covers all of the wall surfaces, with vertical wood siding in the gable ends. The house has a partial basement that opens to the right side and rear yard.

The original owners were Francis J. Poole, a teacher, and his wife Wanda P. Poole [1963 CD]. Francis is Hubert Poole's brother. The Pooles bought the land from Ed Richards's Wachovia Building Co. in 1961 [db1486 p167], and still live in the house.

**Christopher and Mabel Gray House
809 Delany Drive
C 1962**

The four-bay brick hip-roofed Split Level has period elements including diamond-pane muntins and a sawnwork deck railing indicating it was probably constructed from a mail-order plan. The one-story section at the left has an original front door with three diamond-pane lights and a stoop. The living room at left has a bay window with a center picture window flanked by sash windows with diamond-pane muntins. The two-story section at right has an upper-level jetty, 1-over-1 original sash windows, and board-and-batten siding on the upper level. At the right is a deck with a decorative sawnwork railing. Below the deck, a sliding glass door opens from the walkout lower level. At the left side are an integral carport with wood posts and a rear storage closet with board-and-batten siding.

The original owners were Christopher C. Gray, Dean of Men at St. Augustine College and an Episcopal priest, and his wife, Mabel H. Their daughter Phyllis Gray owns the house. [1964 CD, information from Edna Rich Ballentine]

**James and Bertha Wilson House
901 Delany Drive
C 1963**

Two-story, three-bay brick and frame Colonial Revival-style house. The first story is brick, the upper level, which has a shallow jetty overhang, is covered with aluminum siding. The central entrance has a paneled door and brick stoop. Windows are 2-over-2 horizontal double-hung wood sash. The attached carport at left has decorative metal posts. The setback sunroom, to the right, is supported on metal posts. It may also be original. It has aluminum jalousie windows, vinyl siding, and a decorative metal railing around the roof. Because the lot slopes to the rear, the basement is above ground at the rear.

The original owners were James E. Wilson, a school principal, and his wife Bertha B. Wilson. The Wilson heirs still own the house. [1964 CD, information from Edna Rich Ballentine]

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DILLON CIRCLE

**William and Margie Snipes House
1505 Dillon Circle
C 1963**

Three-bay contemporary front-gable Ranch with brick and board-and-batten wood siding and large exterior chimney. The original front door with three lights is recessed just to the left of center. Horizontal 2-over-2 sash window above brick wainscot to the left, with a triplet of horizontal 2-over-2 sash windows above a brick wainscot on the right side. A setback carport extends from the right side, supported by painted 4x4 posts. A small storage closet clad in board and batten is at the rear of the carport. A wall with door opening to the back yard has been added behind the storage closet.

The original owners were William B. and Margie M. Snipes [1964 CD].

**James and Norma Whitley House
1508 Dillon Circle
NC-alt. 1963**

Four-bay brick Ranch with large modern garage addition on the right. Flush entry door with original brick terrace and possibly original metal railings. Door and picture window to the right are replacements, as are the sash windows on the rest of the house. Stone veneer covers the original siding above the brick wainscot, as well as the low wall extending off the left side. Soffits and eaves are covered in vinyl. The house is clearly well cared for, but the cumulative effect of replacement windows, added stone veneer, and garage addition have destroyed the integrity of the house.

The original owners were James Whitley, a teacher, and his wife Norma P. Whitley [1966 CD].

**Malachi and Bernice Wilkins House
1509 Dillon Circle
C 1961**

Three-bay brick contemporary front-gable Ranch with a brick wainscot with vertical flush siding above. There is a two-section picture window with lower awning sash on the left side in front of the living room, and a pair of 1-over-1 sash windows on the right side kitchen. A gable-front porch roof with painted 4x4 posts extends from the flush front entry door and brick stoop to the kitchen windows. An integral carport extends off the right with painted 4x4 wood posts and plywood and batten ceiling. The stand alone storage closet at the rear has wide double doors and narrow vertical flush siding.

The interior features a tiny kitchen and dining area, a living room, study, two bedrooms and one bath. There are exposed beams in the living room with a woodstove instead of a fireplace.

The original owners were Malachi and Bernice D. Wilkins. Mr. Wilkins worked for W & G Upholstering Co. [1963 CD]. Mrs Wilkins still lives in the house. This was the first house on Dillon Circle, and was already

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built when the Wilkins bought it and moved there in 1962. The house was smaller and less ornate than the owners wanted, but it was all they could afford at the time. Mrs. Wilkins worked in sales at Thalheimers Department Store, retiring when it was bought by Hecht's [Bernice Wilkins interview].

Storage shed NC ca. 1990. Front-gable shed with board-and-batten siding, built by the owners.

SUMMERVILLE CIRCLE

**Sterling and Elaine Perry House
1505 Summerville Circle
C 1962**

Asymmetrical front-gable brick Split-Level. The one-story section at the right contains the entrance with a replacement front door, a tile stoop, an adjacent brick planter, and a metal awning. Above the door is a panel of narrow flush vertical siding. To the right, the living room has a three-section picture window with lower awning sash. The chimney is interior. At left is the two-story section, with a shallow jetty overhang. Brick covers all walls except for the upper level, now covered with aluminum siding. The remaining windows are original 1-over-1 horizontal double hung wood sash.

The City Directory lists the first owners as Sterling M. Perry, a teacher at Riley Hill School, and his wife Elaine W. Perry [1964 CD]. Mrs. Perry still owns the house.

**Richard and Dolores Edwinton Ball House
1509 Summerville Circle
C 1961**

Richard E. and Dolores Edwinton Ball had this three-bay brick Ranch constructed in the early 1960s on a lot that slopes to the left. Richard was a law professor at North Carolina Central University; Dolores Edwinton taught education at nearby St. Augustine's College, according to long-time neighborhood resident Yvonne Holley. The 1963 City Directory lists Mr. Ball as an attorney. The center entrance has a paneled door and a stoop with a decorative metal railing. Left of the entrance, the living room window is a three-section picture window with lower awning sash. At the left side is an exterior end chimney. To the right is a hip-roofed section with a brick wainscot below the original triple 1-over-1 sash window. Above the wainscot, stone veneer was added. To the left of the living room is a carport with an enclosed sunroom at the upper level. The room is covered with stone veneer and has a three-section picture window similar to the one in the living room. The carport has metal pipe columns and a small storage area at the rear. A balcony extends from the outside wall of the sunroom. It is likely that the carport and sunroom are original, but the stone of the sunroom and the right bay is an early addition. [1963 CD]

**Saylor and Erma Tyson House
1512 Summerville Circle
C 1963**

Brick Split Level with a one-story side-gabled section, an integral carport at the left side, and a two-story front-

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gabled section at the right. The entrance, in the one-story section, features an original door with three small lights. The living room at the left has a two-section picture window with lower awning sash. At the right, the upper level, covered with narrow flush vertical sheathing, has a jetty overhang. Windows are two-over-two horizontal double-hung sash. The carport has wood posts set on a low brick wall and a wood-sided storage area at the rear.

Saylor E. Tyson, a helper at Dixie Photo Services, and his wife Erma R. Tyson were the original owners [1964 CD].

**Phenix and Mamie Watson House
1515 Summerville Circle
C 1963**

The five-bay side-gable brick Ranch features a recessed entrance, a picture window of three sections with lower awning sash in the left living room bay, and paired 1-over-1 wood sash windows in the right bedroom bays. The bedroom bays are covered with wide aluminum siding. The small front-gabled entrance porch with slender fluted columns and a decorative metal railing is probably a recent addition, but the brick stoop is original. The chimney is interior.

The original owners were Phenix U. Watson, at counselor at Ligon High School, and his wife Mamie W. Watson [1964 CD].

TIERNEY CIRCLE

**Willie and Cora Lamb House
1501 Tierney Circle
C 1961**

Situated on a corner lot, this is a three bay front-gable brick and stone Ranch with a substantial interior brick chimney and two street facades. The primary façade on Tierney Circle features an inset corner entry porch on the left with brick stoop, metal railing and porch support, and stone planter. The original door has a diamond-shaped light. To the right is a two-section picture window with lower awning sash and a horizontal 1-over-1 sash window. The original integral carport at the right was enclosed early with stone veneer and has clerestory windows and a stone planter. The stone matches that elsewhere on the house and appears to be a very early alteration. The right wall of the former carport is sided with clapboards with single pane square windows. The secondary façade features a 3-part picture window with lower awning panes. To the left is a paired 1-over-1 sash window above a woven-in stone wall that extends beyond the house to form a half-height screen wall. The low pitched roof with wide eaves is atypically covered by a membrane instead of shingles.

The original owners were Willie R. Lamb, a clerk at the Post Office, and his wife Cora A. Lamb. Mrs. Lamb still owns the house. [1963 CD]

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**James A., Sr. and Bessie Mae Stroud House
1504 Tierney Circle
C 1963**

Brick and synthetic-sided house that has a Split Foyer plan. The two bay two-story front-gabled section to the right has rough textured masonite siding and a jetty overhang above the brick level. The one-story brick side-gabled wing to the left has a shallow recessed front entry with brick planter. The one bay carport extends to the left with a stepped down side gable roof, a plywood and batten ceiling, small sided storage closet, and painted 4x4 wood support posts with a wooden screen. A fire in 1996 necessitated the replacement of the original living room window with an in-kind three part 1-over-1 sash window, in-kind replacement of the 1-over-1 sash windows in the two-story section, infilling of the entrance transom with siding, and vinyl covering of the soffits.

The house was originally built for James A. Stroud, Sr., a tile mechanic, [1964 CD] and his wife Bessie Mae Mordecai Stroud. It is currently owned by their granddaughter, Angela Smith Wall. The Strouds selected their plans from floor plans provided by John Winters. Their son Dwight remembers that they moved in on July 4, 1963 [Wall interview].

**John and Louise Lewis House
1505 Tierney Circle
C 1962**

An unusual brick four-bay front-to-back Split Level with gravel shed roofs and overhanging eaves. The recessed front entry has a replacement front door with large single pane sidelight. To the right is a triplet of horizontal single pane awning windows. To the left is the inset, integrated carport with steel pipe supports along the side. Cabinets and a storage closet run along the back wall, with a pair of 1-over-1 awning windows. The carport walls are clad with flush vertical siding. The two story rear section contains an interior brick chimney. The shed roof creates a clerestory with continuous windows on the left and a pair of single pane windows in the center, surrounded by weatherboards. The upper floor is clad in flush vertical siding on the sides and rear.

The original owners were John D. and Louise W. Lewis. John was an announcer for WRAL Radio [1963 CD] and later became a prominent television announcer for the same station. His daughter Yvonne Lewis Holley is the current owner of the house. The Lewises bought this lot in August of 1962. [Yvonne Holley interview]

**Wetonah Williams House
1508 Tierney Circle
C 1961, c. 1980**

Two bay brick asymmetrical front-gabled contemporary Ranch with 1-bay integral carport and adjacent 1-bay integral porch/entrance area. The façade has two paired 2-over-2 sash windows in narrow vertical flush siding insets. The entry door is at the rear of the carport. An original concrete walk ramps down a graveled incline to the level parking area. The carport has painted 4x4 posts, a plywood and batten ceiling, and large storage closet clad in narrow vertical flush siding. A decorative concrete block screen extends along the rear. At the

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right rear is an angled wing addition with a paired 1-over-1 picture window in a vertical flush siding inset on the side, a replacement greenhouse window on the front, and a large interior brick chimney. The owner took great care to match the addition to the existing house. Charles Exum was responsible for its construction about 1980. [Wall interview].

The original owner was Mrs. Wetonah Williams (widow of Peter Hines Williams III), a teacher at Ligon High School [1963 CD].

**Harold and Lucille Webb House
1509 Tierney Circle
C 1962**

A decidedly Contemporary side-gabled two-story three-bay house with brick watercourse and vertical rough textured siding. The recessed entry is sheltered by the overhanging second floor which extends to the right to form the carport. The overhang is supported by angled steel pipe columns with decorative metal brackets at the entry, and steel pipe columns at the edge of the carport. The entry door has one sidelight. To the right, the brick extends the height of the wall and wraps around the carport side. Interior brick chimney. The upper floor has a progression of original sliding metal windows. A single window is on the left, a pair of windows is above the entry, and a triplet of windows is above the carport. A cantilevered balcony runs the depth of the gable end, which has floor to ceiling windows, sliding glass doors and projecting purlins. A metal awning was added as an extension of the roofline to further shade the balcony.

The original owners Harold H. Webb, a supervisor of the State Department of Public Instruction, and his wife Lucille H. Webb, still live here. [1963 CD]-

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Section 8: Statement of Significance

Madonna Acres Historic District is a small residential subdivision in east Raleigh, North Carolina platted in 1960 by African American developer John Winters. The forty custom houses were largely built between 1960 and 1965 for middle-class black families who still reside in a number of them. The subdivision consists essentially of one street, Delany Drive, with three short intersecting cul-de-sacs named Dillon Circle, Tierney Circle, and Summerville Circle. Most of the Ranches and Split Levels include contemporary features such as picture windows, a variety of brick, wood, and stone surfaces, exposed exterior framing, clerestory windows, cathedral ceiling living rooms, floor plans of different levels that integrate the houses into sloping lots, and integral carports. Two-thirds of the original residents were educators: either faculty or staff at the adjacent St. Augustine's College, faculty at other colleges, public school teachers and principals, or staff of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Madonna Acres was identified as a significant subdivision in the citywide survey that led to the preparation of the Multiple Property Documentation Form: "Post-World War II and Modern Architecture in Raleigh, North Carolina, 1945-1965." The subdivision meets Criterion A in the area of Community Development and Planning and African American ethnic heritage as the earliest residential subdivision in Raleigh built by African Americans for African Americans. This was a major achievement because Jim Crow segregation still operated in Raleigh during this era, making the American dream of modern residential subdivisions difficult to achieve for black families. Madonna Acres meets Criterion C for its architectural significance as a well-preserved collection of archetypal and contemporary Ranch and Split Level houses of modern design. Its 1960 to 1965 period of significance meets Criteria Consideration G because of its exceptional significance as the first postwar black subdivision built by a black developer.

Context 1, "Community Development and Transportation," pages E1-9 and Context 2, "Architecture," pages E9-21 in "Post-World War II and Modern Architecture in Raleigh, North Carolina, 1945-1965," (MPDF) provides the historic context for the development of Madonna Acres. The locally significant subdivision falls under Property Type F3, "Subdivisions", pages F29-34, which provides the physical description. The small subdivision with cul-de-sacs contains a well-preserved collection of archetypal and contemporary Ranch and Split Level houses of modern design, a rare and significant grouping in the largely traditional subdivision architecture of Raleigh in the mid-twentieth century. According to the registration requirements on page 34 of the MPDF, subdivisions must retain integrity of layout, including street plan, open spaces, curbs and sidewalks, and the majority of the individual houses must date before 1965 and must retain a good degree of integrity. Madonna Acres retains its overall integrity of setting, feeling, association, design, and materials, with only four of its forty houses not contributing to the district's character.

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Historical Background:

Madonna Acres Historic District's location, adjoining the east boundary of the St. Augustine's College campus, was propitious. The college, established in 1867 by the Episcopalians as Saint Augustine's Normal School, a teacher training institute for African Americans, served as a vibrant center of black life and culture in east Raleigh. St. Agnes Hospital on the campus provided health care, the Episcopal Chapel offered religious services, and local residents attended the school as well as enjoyed cultural events such as musicals and programs. Reverend Henry Beard Delany (1858-1928), Episcopal rector of St. Augustine's, occupied an eminent position in the Episcopalian denomination, serving as the first African American Episcopal bishop in the United States from 1918 to his death in 1928.¹ He and his large family resided on a tract purchased in 1918 along the east boundary of the campus. Reverend Delany purchased the land, known as Tract One of the C. B. Barbee Land, from the Carolina Realty Company. The subdivision plat in Book of Maps 1915, page 90 shows Tract One, a long, narrow 17.9-acre rectangle, extending from the Tarboro Road to the north. In the southeast corner of the tract is the "home place," presumably that of Mr. Barbee.² The Delany family apparently lived on the St. Augustine's campus prior to 1918.

Bishop Delany's widow, Nanny J. Delany, deeded three tracts of land in 1946 to a family corporation known as Delany Farms Inc. [Wake County Deed Book 957, page 399]. In 1959 Delany Farms Inc. conveyed the first of these three tracts, the 17.9-acre Delany homeplace, to John W. Winters. The tract began in the center of the Tarboro Road (renamed Milburnie Road), on the south side of the subdivision, and continued north along Harris Branch, the college campus boundary, to Glascok Street. A 5.9-acre parcel in the southeast corner was retained by Delany Farms, which granted a twenty-five-foot easement for the main street, Delany Drive. The subdivision plat of 1960 shows this parcel as a part of the subdivision, with no lots subdivided. [Wake Co. Deed Book 1376 page 410; Madonna Acres Plat Map, Book 1960, page 215]. This section was subdivided and developed in the 1970s and is not included in the historic district, with the exception of the Haynes House, 620 Delany Drive, built in this section in 1965.

John W. Winters (1920-2004), born into an old Raleigh family descended from free blacks, shaped local and state policies for the betterment of the African American community during his half-century career. Winters grew up at the corner of Martin and East streets in a mixed-race neighborhood. After his mother's death he lived with relatives in Brooklyn, New York, and completed secondary school. He attended Long Island University and Virginia State College, then returned to Raleigh to study at Shaw University. He and his wife Marie married in 1941 and raised eight children. Winters worked at a variety of jobs, including railroad porter, waiter, and deliveryman for Pine State Creamery, meanwhile building a home for himself and one for another family member.

In 1957 Winters noticed that developers were expanding the city to the north and west, paying little attention

¹ Obituary of Rev. Henry Beard Delany, *The News and Observer*, Raleigh, N.C., April 16, 1928, in the Lee Collection, Richard B. Harrison Library, Raleigh, N.C. Accessed online at <http://web.co.wake.nc.us/lee/ncbios/> on March 3, 2010.

² *Culture Town*, 116-133; Wake County Book of Maps 1915, page 90.

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to predominantly black southeast Raleigh. In response he formed John W. Winters and Company, a real estate and insurance business, while working as a skycap at the Raleigh-Durham airport.³ The 1959-1960 Madonna Acres subdivision carried his business into land development. His company gradually moved into shopping center development, apartment construction, and property management. In 1961 Winters became the first black Raleigh city councilman of the twentieth century and served three two-year terms. Winters served in the North Carolina Senate from 1974-1977. Other positions of leadership included director of the North Carolina Housing Corporation, which encouraged moderate-cost housing; director of the Home Builders Association of Raleigh-Wake County; board member of the North Carolina Utilities Commission; and a member of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina System.⁴

Madonna Acres was apparently Winters's earliest land development. He designed a compact subdivision on the 17.9-acre tract that he acquired from the heirs of Bishop Delany. Because of its long, narrow rectangular shape, the plan consists of a main central north-south axis, Delany Drive, aptly named for the distinguished Delany family, and three short cul-de-sacs along the east side, named Summerville, Tierney, and Dillon Circles. Engineer Vernon Peebles drew the subdivision map in October 1960 with thirty-nine lots. Winters named the subdivision for one of his daughters, Donna. The 5.9-acre southeast corner of the property remained in the ownership of the Delanys, and may have still contained the old Barbee homeplace.

The subdivision covenants required a minimum house size of 1100 square feet for a one-story house and 800 square feet for a taller house, with a maximum of two and one-half-stories allowed. All plans had to be approved by a three-person architectural committee. Mr. Winters, who worked closely with the purchasers of the lots, was the primary member of the committee. His wife Marie, who served as a co-director of Madonna Acres, Inc., may have also been on the committee. The third director was John K. Culbertson.⁵

The new subdivision generated considerable excitement in the African American community, since it was the first known Raleigh subdivision created by a black developer for black homeowners. The development offered black families that could afford it the chance to construct a new home on a large lot in a beautiful area. The spacious lots and house amenities such as air conditioning, whole-house intercoms, and carports gave Madonna Acres considerable class. Winters' daughters recalled their father's close involvement with every aspect of the creation of the subdivision. Winters sold a family one of the lots, then drew a preliminary design for their desired house on a drafting table in his basement. A design professional then took his sketches and created the final blueprints. Jerry Miller, who had attended the School of Design at North Carolina State University in the 1950s and left school early to establish a house design practice, drew the

³ Biographical entry of John Winters, Raleigh Hall of Fame. http://www.raleighhalloffame.org/john_winters.htm. Accessed Oct. 6, 2009.

⁴ Simmons-Henry and Edmisten, *Culture Town: Life in Raleigh's African American Communities*, 57; Simmons-Henry, *The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina*, entry 519: John Wesley Winters Family.

⁵ Madonna Acres subdivision covenants registered in Wake County Deed Book 1442, page 507, in the year 1960; Articles of Incorporation of Madonna Acres, Inc., North Carolina Secretary of State's Office, 1960.

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plans for at least two of the houses, and may have done more of them.⁶

One of the first families to construct a house in Madonna Acres were Clarence and Marguerite Lightner, who lived in the Washington Terrace apartment complex south of St. Augustine's College. Clarence Lightner (1921-2002) operated the Lightner Funeral Home, established by his father Calvin Lightner, a graduate of Shaw University in Raleigh and a local political leader. Clarence served in the army during World War II, then managed his father's funeral home for forty-five years, becoming a cornerstone of the black community. In 1961 the family selected the 717 Delany Drive lot in the center of Madonna Acres. Their son Bruce recalls the design process. "John Winters would come to our house and work on the design. They had a big board and would draw out how the rooms would interface. My mother had definite ideas about how she wanted it to be."⁷ Bruce explains that the new subdivision was regarded in the black community as upper middle class, and his family was careful to maintain their connection to their old neighborhood. Jerry Miller clearly remembers working with the Lightner family on their house design. Miller worked more behind the scenes than did Winters, thus residents who were children when the houses were built do not recall him today.

Clarence Lightner's political career flourished after moving to Madonna Acres. He became one of Raleigh's most distinguished African American leaders. Lightner was elected to the City Council two years after passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. He served from 1967-1973, when he was elected as the first black mayor of a metropolitan southern city, and served until 1975. During his term he served as a charter member of the Southern Conference of Black Mayors. After his mayoral term, Governor Jim Hunt appointed him to replace State Senator John Winters, who had resigned.⁸ Lightner's wife Marguerite remained in the house until her passing in 2008. Her daughter now owns the house.

Residents recall that John Winters constructed the beige masonry Ranch house at 724 Delany Drive in 1961 as a model. The corner contemporary Ranch had a number of progressive modern features, including beige brick-shaped stone veneer on the façade, a rear-entry carport with a lattice privacy screen of the same "stone brick," large picture windows, and, best of all—the distinction of being a "Gold Medallion" house, the term coined by Carolina Power and Light Company for an all-electric dwelling. The clean, cheap electric heat, including a Tappan electric kitchen range, is still remembered by older residents with delight.⁹ In 1962 James Edward Stallings and his wife purchased the model house and still reside there.

The Colemans, Lewises, and Webbs built stylish custom modern houses in the early sixties. Clarence Coleman, druggist and co-owner of Hamlin Drug Store, a historic business on the "black main street" of East

⁶ Donna Winters Laroche and Fran Winters, interview with Ruth Little, Raleigh, June 21, 2006. Notes in Raleigh Survey Update: 1945-1965 file, North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh; Jerry Miller interview with Ruth Little, Cary, North Carolina, September 24, 2009.

⁷ Bruce Lightner, interview with Ruth Little at Lightner Funeral Home, Raleigh, Sept. 18, 2009.

⁸ "Clarence Lightner" article in Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarence_Lightner, accessed 9/18/2009.

⁹ Madonna Acres Community Association meeting at home of Yvonne Holley, 1505 Tierney Circle, August 29, 2009.

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Hargett Street, and his wife Ola built a large contemporary Ranch at 810 Delany Drive. Ola worked in the St. Augustine's Hospital laboratory and later at Wake Memorial Hospital. They consulted with John Winters on their house design, which includes a dramatic sunken living room inspired by various magazines that Ola had collected.¹⁰ J. D. Lewis, a pioneering African American radio announcer and later television announcer at Fred Fletcher's WRAL broadcasting station in Raleigh, built a house at 1505 Tierney Circle with his wife Louise in 1962. Harold Webb, a Tuskegee Airman during World War II, moved to Raleigh as a supervisor in the State Department of Public Instruction in the early 1960s. He and his wife Lucille, a teacher, built a house at 1509 Tierney Circle in 1962. Mrs. Webb recalls that Jerry Miller drew the plans, which included all of the modern conveniences they had enjoyed in their former house in Hillsborough.¹¹

Nearly two-thirds of the original owners were in educational fields as professors, college staff, State Department of Public Instruction staff, public school principals, and public school teachers. Twenty-three of the thirty-eight homeowners in Madonna Acres were educators, a remarkable percentage. The neighborhood's proximity to St. Augustine's College partially explains this concentration, but the African American commitment to education as the path to progress is the primary factor. Those who worked at St. Augustine's included Igal Spraggings, 908 Delany Drive, the long-time college registrar, and Christopher Gray, 809 Delany Drive, the dean of men. School principals James Wilson had 901 Delany Drive built and Richard L. Barfield had 806 Delany Drive constructed. Clinton R. Downing, education professor at East Carolina University, had 713 Delany Drive built. Richard Ball, law professor at North Carolina Central University in Durham and his wife Dolores Edwinton Ball, a law professor at St. Augustine's College, had 1509 Summerville Circle built. Mrs. Ura Jones, on the faculty at Shaw University in Raleigh, had 705 Delany Drive built. George Stokes, who taught at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh, had 708 Delany Drive built. The public school teachers who had houses in Madonna Acres constructed include Ocie Taylor and his wife Dorothy, 701 Delany Drive; David Spaugh and his wife Leolia, 718 Delany Drive; Rosalie Peay, 621 Delany Drive; Francis Poole, 805 Delany Drive; James Whitley, 1508 Dillon Circle; and Sterling Perry, 1505 Summerville Circle. Hubert and Mary Poole, 801 Delany Drive, both taught at Ligon High School in Raleigh. Phenix Watson, 1515 Summerville Circle, and Wetonah Williams, 1508 Tierney Circle, taught at Ligon High School. Frank Weaver, 900 Delany Drive, was a supervisor with the State Department of Public Instruction.¹²

John Winters's involvement with the successful development of Madonna Acres did not end with the sales of the lots and construction of houses. On several occasions when houses were foreclosed by the bank, he stepped in to buy the properties and to resell them. For example the Evans, who lived at 601 Delany Drive, owned the adjacent house at 605 Delany Drive and rented it out. In 1966 when the rental house was foreclosed, Winters purchased it and sold it to a new family. [Wake County Deed Book 1744, 234; Deed Book 1768, 197]. He also purchased 625 Delany Drive in the 1960s and resold it.

¹⁰ Ola Coleman interview with Ruth Little and Anna Quinn, Sept. 1, 2009.

¹¹ Lucille Webb interview with Ruth Little, Raleigh, August 29, 2009.

¹² Raleigh City Directories from 1963 to 1966 supplied this information on the early owners and their occupations. Directories from the earlier 1960s did not cover Madonna Acres as it was not considered a part of Raleigh's urban area.

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Madonna Acres has been a close-knit community throughout its history. Mothers watched over each others' children. Children who grew up there became lifelong friends. Now that the children are grown, they take care of each others' parents. A number of the grown children have inherited their houses from the parents and make their homes in the neighborhood.

Community Development and Planning and Architecture for African Americans in Raleigh:

Madonna Acres Historic District meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A for Community Development and Planning and African American ethnic heritage as Raleigh's first black subdivision developed by a black developer. Raleigh's two historically black colleges, St. Augustine's and Shaw, founded in 1865 at the end of the Civil War, have remained strong institutions, creating a black middle class that has produced a number of distinguished and accomplished leaders. At the end of World War II, African American veterans, who had fought alongside white soldiers in the war, believed winning the war for democracy abroad would change segregation at home. Jim Crow segregation, however, continued in Raleigh and elsewhere. Although restrictive covenants enforcing racist housing had been outlawed by the Supreme Court in 1948, segregated suburbs remained in effect through the late 1960s through efforts by policy makers and real estate interests, keeping blacks in the inner cities.¹³ Blacks responded by creating their own middle-class suburbs through a valiant effort. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, a determined struggle resulted in the first three black postwar residential suburbs in Raleigh, a full decade later than those created for whites.

The earliest black subdivision in the postwar era was Rochester Heights in south Raleigh, subdivided by white developer E. E. Phillips for middle-class blacks, primarily teachers who previously lived in a segregated inner-city Raleigh neighborhood. The streets were named for outstanding African American entertainers such as musicians Cab Calloway (from Rochester, New York) and Pearl Bailey. Streets are lined with typical middle-class brick Ranches and Split Levels built beginning in 1957. The houses in the core of the neighborhood were constructed by masonry contractor Millard Peebles, who built a brick Ranch for himself here in 1959. The standardized house plans, of popular style with modest contemporary features, may have been provided by the developer.¹⁴

In east Raleigh an exclusive African American suburb developed in the Battery Heights area from 1959 to about 1965. Although subdivided by wealthy white landowner John Gatling on his ancestral land, black mason and teacher George Exum (who taught brick masonry at Ligon High School in Raleigh) was the impetus. He convinced Gatling to subdivide and sell lots to himself and other middle-class blacks so that they could build houses. Exum recruited the families and acted as general contractor to build a number of their large Ranches and Split Levels. He used his best students in the high school shop classes to assist him, giving them apprenticeship opportunities and some earnings. The custom house blueprints came from various

¹³ Rosalyn Baxandall and Elizabeth Ewen, *Picture Windows: How the Suburbs Happened* (Basic Books, 2000), 174-175.

¹⁴ Allie Muse Peebles, interview with Ruth Little, Rochester Heights, Raleigh, September 12, 2009.

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sources, including local house designer Jerry Miller and Standard Homes Plan Service, a nationally-prominent house plan company that began in 1921 in Washington, D.C. and relocated near Raleigh, North Carolina in 1937. The plans were sometimes altered to reflect the clients' tastes, with extra features added or combined in unusual ways. The house built for the Lane sisters, both teachers, at 1617 E. Martin Street, is a sophisticated modern design with an asymmetrical front-gable and projecting living room with front and side picture windows. Dr. Debnam, a physician, constructed a distinctive contemporary at 311 Sherrybrook Drive from a mail-order plan, with a bold front gabled wing with full-height fixed and casement windows. The seven dramatic thin angled posts supporting the wide overhanging eaves of the entrance porch is probably an elaboration on the plan made by Dr. Debnam. Another physician, Dr. Hunt, constructed a large brick Split Foyer house in 1961 at 300 Sherrybrook Drive from a mail-order plan, with a complicated set of levels. The Colonial-style entrance and porch probably reflect the plan; the large free-floating sidelights of Modernist style were probably added by Dr. Hunt.¹⁵

Madonna Acres developed simultaneously with Battery Heights. No longer a joint effort between the two races, Madonna Acres was created entirely by the black community and reflects the coming of age of Raleigh's African American development community. Both Battery Heights and Madonna Acres demonstrate a divergence in taste between whites and blacks in Raleigh during the post World War II building boom. White subdivisions tended to be filled with traditional Ranches and Split Levels of Colonial design, while the dominant character of these black suburbs is modern. Madonna Acres Historic District contains small and medium-sized Ranches and Split Levels of archetypal modern design and custom contemporary style that clearly convey a distinct modern quality. In addition, three of the Split Level houses have custom front-to-back floor plans that reflect a contemporary approach to design. Designer Jerry Miller recalls that "The black people wanted something different, something that the white people didn't have." Madonna Acres residents explain their architectural taste with the statement "We'd been shotgunned. We weren't part of the American dream. We wanted the dream—big and new."¹⁶

Anecdotal evidence from elsewhere in the South tends to confirm this correlation between the black middle class and modernism. The black postwar subdivision where Civil Rights activist Medgar Evers lived, on the outskirts of Jackson, Mississippi, is full of Modernist Ranches like Evers' own dwelling. Collier Heights, an exclusive black subdivision in suburban Atlanta where local civil rights leaders built homes in the 1950s and 1960s, has a dominant Modernist Split Level character. In a study of the African American settlement of Langston, Oklahoma, architectural historian Jeff Hardwick found the Colonial Revival style conspicuously absent, implying a strong decision not to use the style that was a symbol of slavery, instead selecting hopeful, progressive styles.¹⁷ Only two subdivisions with custom Ranches and Split Levels of contemporary design

¹⁵ George Exum, interview with Ruth Little, Raleigh, September 22, 2009.

¹⁶ Jerry Miller, interview with Ruth Little, Cary, N.C., September 24, 2009; Madonna Acres Community Association meeting, at 1505 Tierney Circle, August 29, 2009.

¹⁷ Jeff Hardwick, "Homesteads and Bungalows: African American Architecture in Langston, Oklahoma," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. VI, 1997, 21-32; Jeanne Cyriaque, "The Collier Heights Historic District: Atlanta's Premier African American Suburb," *Reflections: Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network*, December 2009.

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were developed for Raleigh's white families during the postwar era—the Cameron Village houses and Forty Acres. Most white subdivisions of custom houses featured traditional design.

Madonna Acres meets National Register Criterion C for the architectural significance of its well-preserved contemporary Ranches and Split Level houses. These were designed largely through the collaboration of the homeowners and the highly involved “father” of the development, John Winters. Some of the plans came from white house designer Jerry Miller, others from mail-order plan books or magazines, but most reflect individualized taste. The owners reconfigured various levels to suit their specific lot topography. They sometimes placed their living rooms on the second floor overlooking their spacious back yards. They employed such modern features as the juxtaposition of sections of brick walls with stone and wood walls, large picture windows, carports, concrete block screens, and planters. Madonna Acres remains to this day a landmark in the creation of the American dream for blacks, and a distinctive collection of well-preserved postwar modern houses.

Most of the Ranches fit into the minimal, archetypal category based on the Ranch typology developed in the “Post World-War II and Modern Architecture in Raleigh, North Carolina, 1945-1965” MPDF (page F22). The common Ranch in Madonna Acres is four bays wide, with a side-gable roof, brick walls, and, in the bedroom bays, a combination of a brick wainscot and high bedroom windows set in vertical or horizontal wood siding. A two- or three-section picture window consisting of large upper fixed panes and small lower operable awning panes illuminates the living room. At the kitchen end of the house is a one-car carport, usually integrated into the main roof, with a small storage closet at the rear. A good example is the George and Laura Stokes House, 708 Delany Drive, constructed in 1961. It has a brick wainscot beneath the picture window, flanked by stone veneer. The bedroom windows are pairs of one-over-one wooden sashes. The house has the modest, streamlined modern appearance that is the essence of the minimal archetypal Ranch.

The larger Ranches, the Model House, 724 Delany Drive and the Coleman House, 810 Delany Drive, both built in 1961, fit into the contemporary Ranch category according to the Ranch typology (page F23). Both are larger than the minimal Ranch and break out of the rectangle. They feature innovative forms such as groupings of large windows and integration of the house into the sloping sites through terraces, porches, and carports. Although not as avant-garde as the contemporary Ranches designed by Raleigh's leading architects, these two houses go beyond the archetypal in their use of modern features. The design of the Model House has the well-proportioned design of a mail order plan. The central entrance is recessed. To the right is a projecting front-gabled main block containing a three-part picture window and a ribbon window. Left of the entrance is a two-car carport entered by a rear driveway. Set on a corner lot, the front and side walls have beige brick veneer textured to look like stone; other walls have common red brick veneer. The side wall of the carport has latticework beige textured brick. A brick privacy wall extends from the right corner of the main façade to screen an original patio.

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The Coleman House, on a corner sloping lot, is a rambler contemporary Ranch design with a rectangular side-gabled main block and a gabled wing with a walk-out lower level. A large two-car carport connects to this wing, with a deck on the upper level. The main entrance faces Summerville Court. Walls are of brick, with a stone wall facing Delany Drive. Large picture windows illuminate the living room, dining room, and kitchen. The dramatic living room has a cathedral ceiling, a large stone fireplace, and a brick wall dividing it from the master bedroom to the rear. A continuous transom at the top of the brick wall allows light into the bedroom, which also has a cathedral ceiling. The transom would have functioned as a clerestory, allowing extra light into the living room, if the transom projected above the rear roof level. Instead the gable roof extends over the transom. The kitchen counter extends on the diagonal into the eating area and family room, illuminated by a large picture window. Behind the family room is an original screen porch, now enclosed as a sunroom.

A group of asymmetrical front-gabled contemporary Ranches, probably built from mail order plans, are a subcategory of the Ranch type: 605 Delany Drive, 701 Delany Drive, 1505 Dillon Circle, and 1508 Tierney Circle. Each of these has a front-facing gable roof with the ridge located off-center. Most have extending roof purlins that support wide eaves across the facade. The living room with picture window is set beneath the highest pitch of the roof, with an integral carport beneath the lower pitch of the roof. A shallow porch or walkway extends from the carport across to the front entrance in two of the houses. Mrs. Taylor, owner of 701 Delany Drive, recalled that her house was built from plans that she found in a magazine. Because of the size of her lot, the builder had to make the house slightly smaller.

Eleven of Madonna Acres's houses are Split Levels. Most of these are representative examples that feature a one-story main level containing entrance, living room, dining room, and kitchen, with a split level side wing containing a half-stair up to the bedrooms and a half-stair down to the den or recreation room. For example 613 Delany Drive, built in 1962, follows this general plan. Yet like a number of Split Levels in Madonna Acres, there is a slight twist. The central entrance opens into the lower, den level rather than the middle living room level. In other respects the house is typical of late 1950s and early 1960s Split Levels in Raleigh, with brick walls, a two-section picture window in the living room, and wood siding on the upper level, now covered with vinyl siding. The 1963 Split Level at 617 Delany Drive has an entrance in the one-story section, with a picture window, an integral carport, and a pent roof between the levels of the two-story section that extends to shelter the entrance. The 1965 Split Level at 908 Delany Drive features a ground level entrance in the two-story section with a built-in brick planter, a pent roof, and a rear recessed carport.

Two of the Split Levels are large, contemporary designs that are among the neighborhood showplaces. The Lightner House, 717 Delany Drive, was designed by Jerry Miller. The Lewis House, 1505 Tierney Circle, is attributed to Miller based on the sophistication of its design. Both houses are actually front-to-back Split Level houses, although they appear to be Ranches at the street level because their upper levels extend across the rear and are only visible from the side view. Clarence and Marguerite Lightner worked with Jerry Miller to create an unusual floor plan in which the living room, dining room, and kitchen extend across the front. A half-flight staircase in the living room rises to an upper level containing the bedrooms and descends to the

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lower level den. Sliding glass doors open into two outdoor spaces, a tiled patio between the living room and the one-car garage, and a patio adjacent to the den in the lower level. Picture windows illuminate the cathedral-ceilinged living room and the dining room. Windows in the upper bedroom level open to a metal balcony that extends across the rear. A louvered wood screen and a brick planter create privacy for the patio off the living room. The living room contains a dramatic full-height brick and stone fireplace. The Lewis House has the same front-to-back split level plan except that the front level contains a kitchen, dining room, bedrooms, and an integral two-car carport. The upper rear level contains a large living room and a bedroom; the lower rear level contains a den. The living room overlooks the rear yard through two picture windows, and receives secondary light through a clerestory across the front. A third front-to-back Split Level, the Brown House, stands at 725 Delany Drive.

For the Webbs, Jerry Miller designed a contemporary two-story house at 1509 Tierney Circle that is a distinctive house type in the district, with the entrance in the lower level, recessed beneath a jetty overhang of the upper level, and a large recessed carport at the right end. The living room is located in the upper level, with large windows around three sides and a cantilevered balcony accessed by a sliding glass door. Angled pipe brackets supporting the overhang are echoed by the angle of the wooden balcony railing. The vertical wood siding that covers the entire house creates a sleek unity.

Although each of the houses in Madonna Acres is slightly different, and some are dramatically different, the common elements of picture windows, brick, wood and stone wall surfaces, concrete block screens, planters, and carports are archetypal features that create a unified streetscape and an overall cohesive character to the district. The distinctive floor plans with one and two stories customized to take advantage of the sloping lots are another contemporary element that creates cohesion in the district. One house deviates from this character--the two-story brick Colonial Revival-style 1963 dwelling at 901 Delany Drive. Its representative Colonial Revival design is typical of most 1960s Raleigh subdivisions, but is out of the norm in the Madonna Acres Historic District.

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Section 10: Boundaries

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated parcel of 13 acres is shown on a map prepared by the City of Raleigh Planning Department in March 2010 at a scale of one inch = 200 feet.

Boundary Justification

The nominated acreage contains that portion of Madonna Acres subdivision that was developed prior to 1965. The additional 5.9 acres at the southeast corner of the subdivision was not subdivided and the houses were not constructed until the 1970s. All the 1970s houses have been excluded from the historic district.

Continued UTM References:

5. Zone 17S 715500/3962980

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Madonna Acres Historic District
Wake County, North Carolina**

Section Photos Page 32

Photographs:

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Madonna Acres Historic District, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina

Photographer: M. Ruth Little or Anna Quinn

Date: September 2009

Location of original digital images: State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina

1. Taylor House, 701 Delany Drive, view from southeast.
2. 708 Delany Drive, view from west.
3. Coleman House, 810 Delany Drive, view from west.
4. View of Lewis House, 1505 Tierney Circle and Webb House, 1509 Tierney Circle, from west.
5. 1508 Tierney Circle, view from northeast.
6. Webb House, 1509 Tierney Circle, view from west.
7. Model House, 724 Delany Drive, view from northwest.
8. 625 Delany Drive, view from east.
9. 705 Delany Drive, view from east.
10. Downing House, 713 Delany Drive, view from east.
11. Lightner House, 717 Delany Drive, view from east.
12. 901 Delany Drive, view from east.
13. 800 block Delany Drive, view from north.
14. View of intersection of Delany Drive and Summerville Circle, view from south.
15. 718 Delany Drive, view from west.